

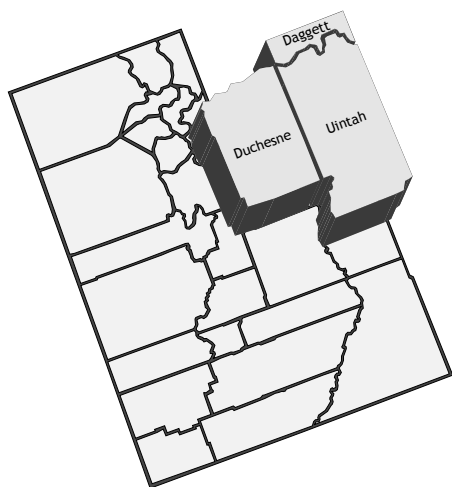
Workforce News



A quarterly publication of the Department of Workforce Services: issued March 2010

Uintah Basin: Daggett, Duchesne, Uintah

jobs.utah.gov



ACS: The New Source for Demographic, Social, and Economic Census Data

The American Community Survey (ACS) is the Census Bureau's new method for gathering and disseminating data on population and housing characteristics. The ACS is formally part of the decennial census program and it officially replaces the decennial census long form. The main advantage of the ACS is its timeliness. Whereas the use of the long form generated new data only once every 10 years, ACS data is collected continuously every year. This data will be used to annually update the demographic, social, and economic information for all 3,141 counties in the United States.

Like the decennial census long form, the ACS is a sample. While the long form was originally sent to one in every six households, the ACS is based on a smaller sample of roughly one in every 40 households. The smaller sample size necessitates using different methodologies to estimate the characteristics of counties when the populations are relatively small. For counties with populations of 65,000 or greater, a one-year sample can produce sufficiently accurate information. These are referred to as one-year estimates and the results are published annually. When a county has a population between 20,000 and 65,000, a one-year sample is inadequate for producing precise information. In this case, a three-year estimate is used, which pools together data collected over an entire three-year period. Each successive year, the oldest year of data is dropped and the most recent year is added in order to form a new three-year estimate. In counties with fewer than 20,000 inhabitants, a five-year estimate is needed to produce reasonably accurate information. Just like the three-year estimates, five-year estimates are updated annually by adding in the newest year of data and removing the oldest year.

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Inside:

- **Daggett:** Very little change in the economic conditions in the county.
- **Duchesne:** The unemployment rate keeps rising as third quarter jobs losses are significantly high.
- **Uintah:** The County's economy has taken a beating with the worst year-over job losses in the state.



Contact your regional economist, with any questions on content:

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ACS Data (continued)

Of the three Uintah Basin counties, ACS data is currently only available for Uintah County. Toward the end of 2010, however, five-year estimates will be available for both Daggett and Duchesne counties. While we wait for the Daggett and Duchesne data, let's take a look at Uintah County's ACS profile.

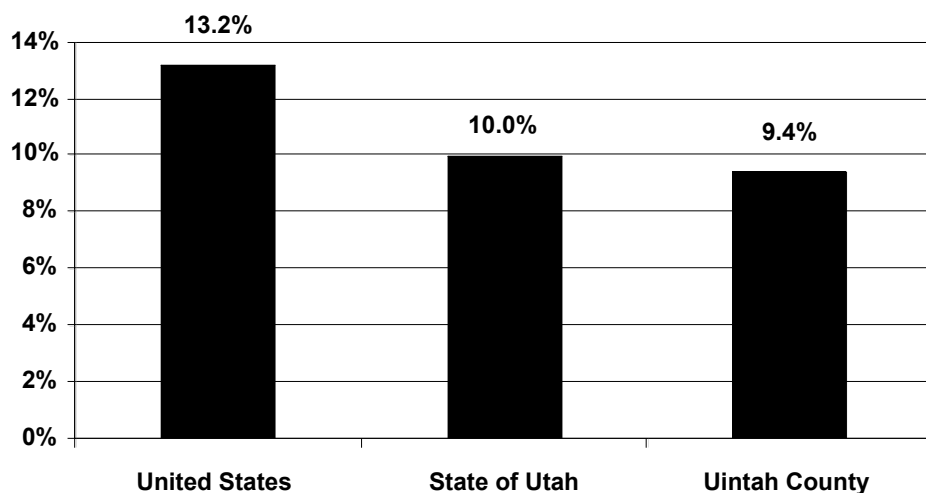
Uintah's Social and Demographic Characteristics

With a median age of 28.5, Utah is the youngest state in the nation. Uintah County's median age is just one year higher than Utah's average, but it is still more than seven years below the median age for the United States (see graph).

Turning to racial/ethnic characteristics, Uintah County is 84.4 percent white, 7.3 percent Native American Indian, 4.5 percent Hispanic, 2.1 percent Pacific Islander, and 0.5 percent Asian, with the remaining 1.2 percent consisting of other races or more than one race. Only 2.2 percent of Uintah County residents were born in a foreign country, whereas foreign-born residents make up 8.2 percent of Utah and 12.5 percent of the U.S.

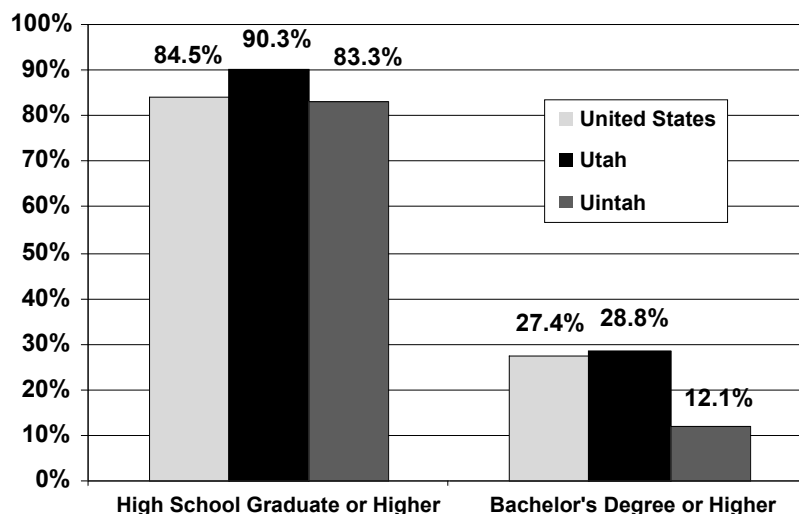
Uintah County has 9,533 households with an average size of 3.03 individuals per household. The average family size is 3.38, which is smaller than the state average of 3.63. However, both of these figures are larger than the

Percent of the Population Below the Poverty Level, 2006-2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Educational Attainment of Population 25 or Older, 2006-2008

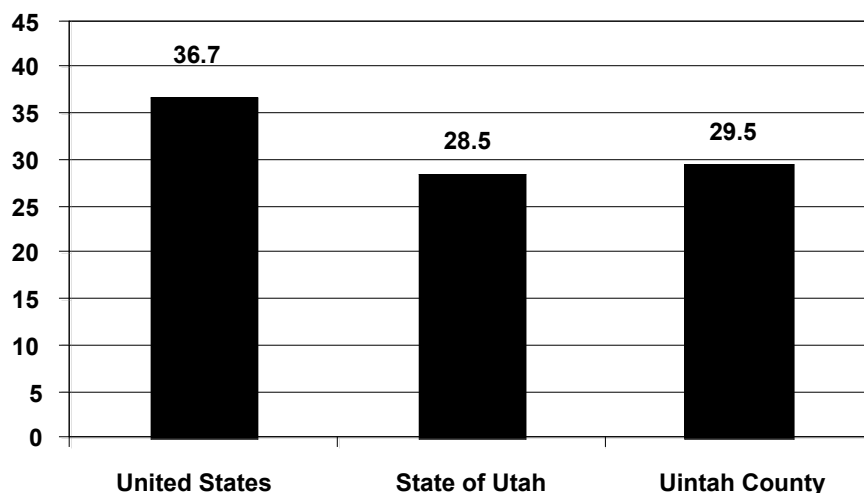


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

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ACS Data (continued)

Median Age, 2006-2008

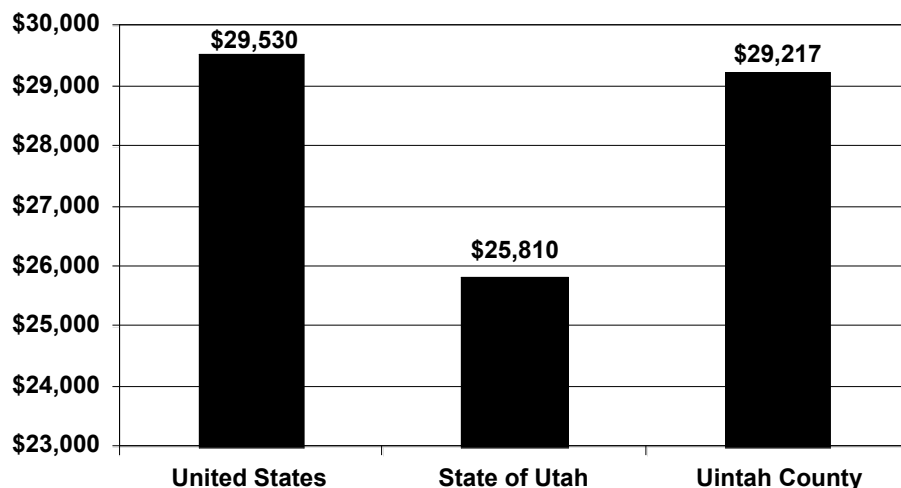


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

national average of 3.2 members per family.

In the educational attainment graph, Uintah County is compared with Utah and the United States. Uintah County has only a slightly lower percentage of high school graduates as compared to the state and national averages, but it has a significantly lower percentage of individuals with bachelor's degrees or higher relative to Utah and the United States (see earnings graph). Economics can explain part of this difference. From 2003 through 2008, the Uintah economy was booming, thereby creating a strong demand for labor and high wages. High wages increase the opportunity of attending college. It is likely that many individuals simply viewed taking a job as a better investment of their time than going to college.

Median Earnings, 2006-2008



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates

Uintah's Economic Characteristics

As the economic data reveals, Uintah County's economy was performing remarkably well during the period from 2006 to 2008. The aforementioned boom can be given credit for raising annual median earnings to \$29,217, which is roughly \$3,400 more than the median earnings for the state (see chart). The comparisons are also favorable when expressed in terms of median family income. Uintah County's median family income was

(continued)

ACS Data (continued)

\$67,169, which was significantly better than Utah's \$64,372 and the United States' \$63,211.

The relatively low level of poverty in Uintah County may also be attributed to the rapid economic growth through 2008. The percent of the population below the poverty level was slightly lower in Uintah County than in the state, but 3.8 percentage points lower than the national average (see poverty graph). Food stamps were received by 5.8 percent of the population in Uintah, which is slightly higher than the 5.3 percent for Utah. Nevertheless, these percentages are well below the national rate of 8.1 percent.

This has just been a sample of the information about Uintah County that can be found in the American Community Survey. More information can be found at the Census Bureau's ACS website: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/index.html>.

For more info:

Get detailed county-level data and historical county data at:

<http://jobs.utah.gov/countyinfo>

When there, select which county you want to view, then find the *Demographic and Economic Profile* under Publications in the right-hand column.

What's Up?

"A strategic partnership was announced of **Utah State University (USU)** and the **Idaho National Laboratory (INL)**. One of the most promising developments to date through INL involves a collaboration with OriginOil, Inc. on a breakthrough technology to transform algae as a renewable oil source into a rival petroleum product. It's a collaboration in energy production which stands to benefit the Rocky Mountain region, most especially the Uintah Basin, specifically in the area of environmental impact mitigation and hybrid energy systems. The first effort involves a joint venture energy lab and the second, a hybrid energy lab that will work to integrate traditional and renewable energy components."

—Vernal Express

"**Harvest Natural Resources Inc.** reported the start of production from an eight-well appraisal and development program at its Antelope project between Altamont Bluebell and Monument Butte oil fields in Utah. Harvest said the first well, Moon 1-29-4-2, went on production Dec. 6 with an average flow in the first 7 days of 344 b/d of oil and 500 Mcfd of gas. The second well, Moon 1-20-4-2, was just coming on stream. A third well was awaiting completion after logs indicated thicker pay than was encountered in the earlier two wells. Harvest expects the program to be complete in the first quarter of 2010."

—Oil & Gas Journal

"A federal agency's rush to sell oil and gas leases in Utah near national parks, wilderness-quality lands and Nine Mile Canyon's archaeological treasures is at the center of **drilling reforms** unveiled by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar. A federal judge last January halted the sale's progress, then blocked leases on 77 parcels near Arches and Canyonlands national parks, Dinosaur National Monument, and Nine Mile Canyon. Salazar's reforms mean the oil and gas industry still can nominate public-land parcels for lease sales, but before the sites are listed, BLM professionals will conduct on-the-ground analyses for potential resource conflicts. The agency also will curb use of so-called categorical exclusions, which allow one broad environmental-impact statement on a drilling application to serve for all subsequent requests for drilling permits in the same area."

—Salt Lake Tribune

County News

Daggett County:

When compared with Utah or the nation as a whole, Daggett County's economy is faring pretty well. In September 2009, employment was down only 2.8 percent (13 jobs) as compared to a year ago. Nearly all of the jobs lost were construction jobs. Service jobs were essentially unchanged. December's unemployment rate was comparatively low at 5.5 percent.

Taxable sales were down by 15 percent in the third quarter of 2009 from a year before. Statewide, sales were down 8.2 percent over the same period. Initial unemployment insurance claims were twice as high in 2009 as in 2008, but this only amounts to roughly 20 additional claims for the year. Daggett is one of the few counties in the state showing an increase in construction valuation. The total construction through November 2009 was up about 22 percent relative to the prior year.

Duchesne County:

While Daggett was relatively unchanged, Duchesne and Uintah counties have been devastated. In September 2009, there were 12.2 percent fewer jobs in Duchesne County than a year before. A total of 1,054 jobs were lost during that period. Job losses were highest in the oil and gas industry (-311) and construction (-324), which together accounted for about 60 percent of all job losses. Another 16.4 percent of the total job losses occurred in wholesale and retail trade (-173). With nearly every sector of Duchesne's economy contracting, the unemployment rate jumped from 7.1 percent in November to 7.4 percent in December.

As compared to the third quarter of 2008, county taxable sales suffered a decline of about 42 percent in

the third quarter of 2009. Total construction through November of 2009 is down by nearly the same amount with a 41 percent year-over decrease. Looking at initial unemployment claims, it was evident that laborers were experiencing hard times. Initial claims were up 233 percent in 2009 over 2008.

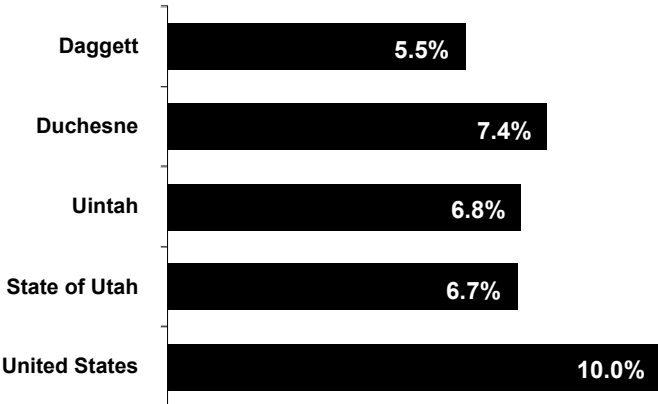
Uintah County:

Of the three counties in the Basin, none was hit harder than Uintah County. In September 2009, the county had lost 19.4 percent of its jobs as compared to the previous year. A total of 3,121 jobs were lost over that year. Most of the losses occurred in the oil and gas industry, where a total of 1,847 fewer jobs were counted during September 2008 to September 2009. Another 442 jobs were lost in construction and 368 in the transportation and warehousing industries. Together, these industries account for about 85 percent of all job losses.

Uintah County's third quarter sales were down by 42 percent, which is about the same drop experienced by Duchesne County. Construction valuation through November 2009 has fallen dramatically with a 77 percent year-over decline. Probably the most pessimistic news concerns initial unemployment claims. Uintah County had the largest one-year increase in initial claims across the state, with a massive 297 percent increase in 2009 as compared to 2008. **WFN**

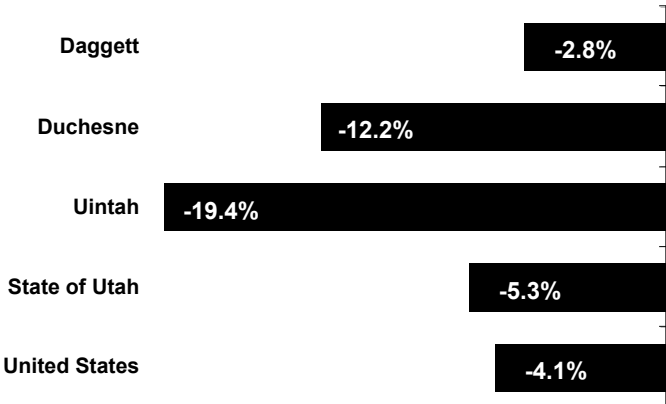
For more employment information about your county go to: <http://jobs.utah.gov/countyinfo> and select your county, then go to Labor Market Indicators in the right-hand margin.

**Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates
December 2009**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs
September 2008 to September 2009**



Source: Utah Dept. of Workforce Services; U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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